

# MAKAPALA BY THE SEA.

(By Anne Marie Prescott.)

Earth's crammed with heaven,  
And every bush alive with God,  
But only he who sees, takes off his  
shoes.—E. B. Browning.

We have always, until quite recently, been in one way a Hindu, disliking to put our foot on anything of God's creation wherein was the breath of life; we simply would not do it. It was with us a superstition. We recall an argument had with a friend in the west in which we declared we would not kill a flea unless they could make clear to our reason, and they could not, an advantage to be gained either for the flea or for ourselves. We had always dropped the flea, when we could catch him, out of the window; and it was a matter of stolid indifference to us from that moment whether he dove into the sand, his dearly-beloved element, or hopped up the lamp post. We said we would not hesitate at all, we were brave enough to start out on that small war-path when we were rightly convinced of any terrestrial or celestial gain that would accrue by taking that little life it seemed always to us so all alive to keep. The wit of a flea is super-excellent.

On coming to Kohala the same aversion implanted within us when a child, to pulling off a fly's wings or head or smashing it outright, came with us. But very soon into the midst of our housekeeping arrangements came the sensible and pertinent query: Should the insects live in our castle or should we? Should we know peace and keep a piece of our possessions or not? And it did not take us many minutes to decide after witnessing a few barbecues, holocausts for them and barmecide feasts for us, within our small walls, what course to pursue, as we have been called upon before in our one life—that self-preservation is the first law of nature as of nations.

We had always argued that we did not consider it as our mission to be chasing gnats, and the rest of the insignificant insect tribe annoying as they may be for a few minutes; and we had been able, by a fairly strong will and no nerves, to get on, and keep on the even tenor of our way. But now here was an actual necessity presented for our regard, and we arose to the occasion. We determined at once to be the sole occupant of the shanty. While we spend not too much time in seeking we kill quickly everything that creeps or crawls or climbs; that runs or flies; that spins or weaves or lays or hatches or eats; everything dies that peeps into our wardrobe, or sleeps in our pantry, or hides in our cupboard. No half-measures, no shilly-shallying—"no donkeys Peggotty!" Thou must end thine unprofitable work, my little friends, here and now.

Chateaubriand, in "Les Natchez," makes Outougamiz say: "Tout est si agité à la surface de la terre! Tout est si calme une longueur de fleche au-dessous!" Piazienza, Signora: "Thou shalt know peace and calm on the surface, and not go into the grave for it!"

It has been blowing a gale here now for many days more or less—more than less. Everything that was loose has been blown down and over into the next lot; everything that is fastened at one end is slapping and switching and snapping, cracking and creaking; the wind is groaning and sighing and whistling and howling; the clouds are flying, the smoke can't tell which way is north or south, east or west, and talks in the earth's face; an ugly sea and spiteful, vicious dashes and swirls of rain make up all the day. Nature is in a much befuddled, laced and fringed mood.

We watched the Kinau at our sea-window (no glass) from Niulii and she was enveloped in angry foam—ugh! How thankful we were to be on land, if the schoolhouse did not blow over in our direction and our roof held on! Be jehers! this is a fine country about here. We are willing to live and work a good bit on to en-

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